

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Amended) A method of treating an ocular wound after surgery, said method comprising directly contacting an exogenous nucleic acid and an ocular cell *in situ* under conditions permissive for the direct uptake of said exogenous nucleic acid by said ocular cell, whereby said exogenous nucleic acid is expressed in said ocular cell.

24. (Previously Amended) A method of treating an ocular wound, said method comprising directly contacting an exogenous nucleic acid and an ocular cell *in situ* under conditions permissive for the direct uptake of said exogenous nucleic acid by said ocular cell, said exogenous nucleic acid encoding a protein useful in alleviating said ocular wound, whereby said exogenous nucleic acid is expressed in said ocular cell.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said exogenous nucleic acid encodes transforming growth factor  $\beta$  (TGF-  $\beta$ ).

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said ocular wound is a corneal epithelial wound.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein said corneal epithelial wound is a corneal ulceration.